

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 MC-02

DODE-00 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 L-03 H-03 STR-08 DRC-01

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P 021602Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2269

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0027

PASS DEFENSE, COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, NI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FMG AIRCRAFT PURCHASES: F-5E, C-130

REFS: (A) STATE 249670

(B) LAGOS 10169

1. SUMMARY: FMG CHOICE FOR FIGHTER AIRCRAFT PURCHASE IS REPORTED NARROWED TO F-5E OR MIG-21. MATTER IS UNDER ACTIVE HIGH-LEVEL CONSIDERATION; GENERAL GOWON INCLINES MORE TO F-5E. WAZIRI IBRAHIM, FORMER MIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON GOWON'S BEHALF TO FACILITATE US CLEARANCES. GUIDANCE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. JANUARY 2 CARLO DELLO STROLOGO OF HERWA LIMITED, LAGOS, CALLED AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS FMG MILITARY AIRCRAFT PURCHASES. STROLOGO SAID HE HAS BEEN IN NIGERIA SEVENTEEN YEARS, IS A PERSONAL ADVISER OF GENERAL GOWON, AND HIS FIRM HANDLES ALL FMG PURCHASES OF MILITARY ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

3. STROLOGO SAID FIGHTER AIRCRAFT CHOICE HAD NARROWED TO F-5E OR MIG-21. (MIRAGE V IS OUT BECAUSE THE FRENCH
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ARE GOING TO RE-EQUIP THREE NIGERIAN ARMORED BRIGADES.)

HE SAID PURCHASES OF NORTHROP F-5E AND LOCKHEED C-130 ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AND SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL LEVEL. GOWON AND NIGERIAN AIR FORCE PREFER F-5E OVER MIG-21. STROLOGO ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF USG APPROVAL OF SALES THESE AIRCRAFT TO NIGERIA AND SIAD WAZIRI IBRAHIM, FORMER MINISTER AND CURRENTLY CLOSE CONFIDANT OF GENERAL GOWON, STRONGLY FAVORS F-5E AND C-130 AND WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS WITH US OFFICIALS IN ORDER FACILITATE USG CLEARANCES. WAZIRI CURRENTLY IN NORTH, WILL RETURN LAGOS JANUARY 7 AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH CHARGE.

4. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE WAZIRI AND WOULD ASK WASHINGTON FOR CURRENT READING ON SITUATION REGARDING THE TWO AIRCRAFT.

5. COMMENT: WE HAD HEARD OF STROLOGO FROM NORTHROP REP ROTHWELL; FROM STROLOGO'S DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF RECENT NIGERIAN MILITARY HARDWARE PURCHASES, HE APPEARS WELL CONNECTED. HIS REPORT CONFIRMS IMPRESSION AIRA HAS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT CHOICE OF FIGHTERS IS DOWN TO F-5E AND MIG-21.

6. WE WERE MOST INTERESTED IN REPORT CONTAINED STATE 249670 AND GRATEFUL THAT OUR CONCERNS WILL BE INCORPORATED AMONG ASPECTS BEING EXAMINED IN PREPARATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY NEWSOM AND NORTHROP WEEK OF JANUARY 7. IN VIEW OF IMMINENCE THIS MEETING, WE WILL HOLD OFF WAZIRI IBRAHIM UNTIL WE RECEIVE REQUESTED CLARIFICATIONS. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE IRON IS HOT, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS SOON AS FEASIBLE. ANY INTERIM ADVICE RE AIRCRAFT SALES OR VISIT OF WAZIRI IBRAHIM TO WASHINGTON WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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TAGS: MILI, MASS, NI
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Type: TE
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